

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 786

By Faulkner

A RESOLUTION naming Campbell County the “Elk Capital of Tennessee.”

WHEREAS, from time to time, this body pauses in its deliberations to give recognition to those counties dedicated to the preservation of those values that make this State the finest in the Union; and

WHEREAS, Campbell County is one such county, serving as the epicenter of Tennessee's 670,000 acre Elk Restoration Zone where wild elk are re-introduced into their historic ranges on Campbell County's illustrious landscape; and

WHEREAS, possessing a commanding presence and a majestic beauty, the elk (*cervus canadensis*) is one of the largest species of deer in the world and one of the largest mammals in North America; and

WHEREAS, natives of Campbell County until the mid-1800s, wild elk once freely roamed the Tennessee countryside, giving their recent restoration to Campbell County great historical significance; and

WHEREAS, with the indisputable success of the elk restoration program, these glorious creatures are now found throughout the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area but are most visible in Campbell County; and

WHEREAS, Campbell County is already recognized as a champion and advocate of wild elk, being chosen as the host site for the first elk camp and providing the base of operations for the first elk hunt ever held in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Campbell County serves as the home of the Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association (CORA), a commendable organization representing the broad interests of Tennessee sportsmen and outdoor recreational users, which has been instrumental in

orchestrating the elk restoration program and creating the much celebrated Hatfield Knob Wildlife Viewing Area; and

WHEREAS, Campbell County's Hatfield Knob Wildlife Viewing Area on Peabody Mountain has proven to be a significant public and tourist attraction, drawing over 2,000 visitors each month during the fall season; and

WHEREAS, by re-establishing a wild, free-ranging elk population, the Campbell County community and all Tennesseans have derived a multitude of historical, aesthetic, and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the good citizens of Campbell County, with the appropriate respect and reverence for the noble elk, have held public meetings and open discussions, convincingly signifying their widespread support for the Campbell County elk restoration program; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly hereby decree that Campbell County be recognized because of its close association with the elk; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate Campbell County as the "Elk Capital of Tennessee."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.